

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-23 (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) An endoluminal prosthesis for use in a human body comprising a radially expandable tubular frame, the frame including a plurality of self expandable closed loops and a plurality of plastically deformable metal connector elements extending between adjacent closed loops that allow the tubular frame to plastically conform to a body lumen.

25. (previously presented) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 24, wherein the connector elements plastically deform at a predetermined load that is greater than physiological loads imposed on the deployed prosthesis by the body lumen.

26. (previously presented) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 25, wherein the predetermined load is less than or equal to loads imposed on the prosthesis during deployment of the prosthesis within the body lumen.

27. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 24, wherein adjacent self expandable closed loops are axially separated, and wherein the connector elements comprise serpentine structures that extend axially between the adjacent self expandable closed loops.

28. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 24, wherein the self expandable closed loops comprise ring-frames.

29. (previously presented) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 28, further comprising a tubular liner supported by the ring-frames and the connector elements.

30. (currently amended) An endoluminal prosthesis comprising a radially expandable tubular frame defining an axis, the frame including a plurality of expandable closed loops and a plurality of metal connector elements extending between adjacent expandable closed loops that allow the axis to plastically conform to a body lumen,

wherein an attachment mechanism allows a limited axial motion between at least some connector elements and an associated expandable closed loop without deforming the connector elements.

Claims 31-59 (cancelled)

60. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 24, wherein the connector elements and the self expandable closed loops are made of materials with different expansion characteristics.

61. (currently amended) An endoluminal prosthesis for use in a human body comprising a radially expandable tubular frame, the frame including a plurality of self expandable closed loops and a plurality of plastically deformable connector elements extending between adjacent closed loops that allow the tubular frame to plastically conform to a body lumen,

wherein an attachment mechanism allows a limited axial motion between at least some connector elements and an associated loop without deforming the connector elements.

62. (previously presented) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 24, further comprising a tubular liner supported by the frame.

63. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 24, wherein the connector elements are more malleable than the self expandable closed loops.

64. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 30, wherein the expandable closed loops are resiliently expandable.

65. (previously presented) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 30, wherein the connector elements are plastically deformable.

66. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 30, wherein the connector elements are plastically deformable and the expandable closed loops are self-expanding.

67. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 30, wherein the connector elements are more malleable than the expandable closed loops.

68. (currently amended) An endoluminal prosthesis for use in a human body comprising:

a plurality of self expandable closed ring-frames; and

a plurality of metal connector elements extending between adjacent self expandable closed ring-frames that allow the endoluminal prosthesis to conform to a body lumen,

wherein the self expandable closed ring-frames and the connector elements form an expandable tubular frame having regions formed of materials having different malleability.

69. (Canceled)

70. (previously presented) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 68, wherein the connector elements are plastically deformable.

71. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 68, wherein the connector elements and the self expandable closed ring-frames are made of materials with different expansion characteristics.

72. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 68, wherein an attachment mechanism allows a limited axial motion between at least some connector elements and an associated closed ring-frame without deforming the connector elements.

73. (previously presented) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 68, wherein the connector elements are plastically deformable.

74. (previously presented) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 68, wherein the connector elements are more malleable than the expandable closed ring-frames.

75. (currently amended) An endoluminal prosthesis for use in a human body comprising:

a radially expandable tubular frame having regions of different plasticity,
the frame including a plurality of self expandable closed loops and a plurality of plastically deformable metal connector elements having substantially higher plasticity than the self-expandable self expandable closed loops and extending between adjacent self-expandable closed loops,

wherein the tubular frame can plastically conform to a body lumen.

76. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 75, wherein adjacent self expandable closed loops are axially separated, and wherein the connector elements comprise serpentine structures that extend axially between the adjacent self expandable closed loops.

77. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 75, wherein the self expandable closed loops comprise ring-frames.

78. (currently amended) The endoluminal prosthesis as in claim 75, further comprising a tubular liner supported by the self expandable closed loops and the connector elements.

79. (currently amended) An endoluminal prosthesis comprising:
a radially expandable tubular metallic frame having regions of different plasticity, the frame defining an axis,

the frame including a plurality of expandable closed loops and a plurality of metal connector elements extending between adjacent expandable closed loops that allow the tubular frame to conform to a body lumen,

wherein an attachment mechanism allows axial motion between at least one connector element and an associated expandable closed loop without deforming the at least one connector element elements.

80. (currently amended) An endoluminal prosthesis for use in a human body comprising:

a plurality of self expandable closed ring-frames; and
a plurality of metal connector elements extending between adjacent self expandable closed ring-frames that,

wherein the self expandable closed ring-frames and the connector elements are formed of materials having different plasticity.